

**TOP SECRET**

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS, OSD  
Reviews  
Completed

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM  
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TOP SECRET SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD  
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PASS TO BREMER/GOMPERT FOR THE SECRETARY

NOVEMBER 4, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

CUBA TO DRAFT NEW CONSTITUTION: THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION. THE DRAFT IS TO BE READY BY FEBRUARY 24 FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S POLITICAL BUREAU AND TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE CONSTITUTION IS UNLIKELY TO BE ADOPTED FORMALLY FOR AT LEAST 18 MONTHS SINCE IT MUST FIRST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE THROUGH MASS ORGANIZATION AND THEN BE APPROVED BY A PARTY CONGRESS NOW SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1975. FINALLY IT MUST BE THE SUBJECT OF A REFERENDUM.

CASTRO HAS LONG RESISTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT MIGHT DEFINE, AND THUS POTENTIALLY LIMIT, HIS UNRESTRICTED POWER. HIS OPPOSITION HAS APPARENTLY BEEN OVERCOME, BUT THE MECHANICS FOR APPROVING THE DRAFT ALLOW FOR REVISION BY POLITICAL BODIES WHICH ARE DOMINATED BY CASTRO. HE WILL, THEREFORE, HAVE THE FINAL SAY ON THE VERSION SUBMITTED TO THE PARTY CONGRESS. THUS, WHILE RETAINING FINAL SAY, HE WILL AT THE SAME TIME BE CARRYING OUT THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH MOSCOW HAS BEEN DEMANDING. (BROWNELL)

ETHIOPIAN NOTES:

GENERAL

AMAN DOES NOT WANT TO BRING THE FORMER EMPEROR TO TRIAL.

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THE ONE NAGGING PROBLEM IS THE EMPEROR'S REFUSAL TO REPATRIATE FUNDS FROM ABROAD AND, IN FACT, TO CONTINUE TO INSIST HE HAS NONE. THE GENERAL ALSO REPORTEDLY HAS MADE UP HIS MIND THAT ETHIOPIA SHOULD BECOME A REPUBLIC. THE GENERAL HAS EXTENDED "THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP" TO SOMALIA TO BUY TIME TO IMPROVE HIS MILITARY FORCES FOR A SOMALI ATTACK EXPECTED IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1975.

OUR EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM REPORTS THAT THE SUDANESE HAVE TOLD AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION THERE IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT SOVIET ARMS ARE TO BE AVOIDED, WHETHER FREE OR PURCHASED. THE REASON REPORTEDLY GIVEN WAS EXTREME UNRELIABILITY WITH RESPECT TO DELIVERY, QUALITY, SPARE PARTS, AND MAINTENANCE. HORAN)

SOVIET MBFR PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT: THE SOVIETS PRESENTED THEIR "INITIAL REDUCTION STEP" PROPOSAL FORMALLY AT AN MBFR PLENARY SESSION ON OCTOBER 1 AND FOLLOWED UP WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT THEY HAD CHANGED THEIR INITIAL POSITION TABLED IN NOVEMBER, 1973. THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT PLAYED UP THE FACT THAT THE EAST WAS RESPONDING TO WESTERN DEMANDS THAT THE U.S. AND SOVIETS SHOULD REDUCE FIRST. IN FACT, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL MAKES ONLY A SLIGHT CONCESSION IN FAVOR OF THE WEST'S POSITION ON PHASING. IT CALLS FOR A FIRST-STEP AGREEMENT IN WHICH THE U.S. AND SOVIET FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW 10,000 MEN EACH DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975, FOLLOWED BY REDUCTIONS IN THE SECOND SIX MONTHS OF 5,000 EACH BY THE POLES AND WEST GERMANS, WITH ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS SHARING THE REMAINING 5,000 CUTS ON EACH SIDE. THIS INITIAL STEP WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER REDUCTIONS TO BE NEGOTIATED SEPARATELY. THE ONLY NEW ELEMENTS ARE THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED IN SEQUENCE AND THAT THE U.S. AND SOVIETS WOULD TAKE CUTS WHICH WERE NOT PROPORTIONAL TO THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE FORCES WITHIN THEIR ALLIANCES.

THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH CAME ON THE HEELS OF THE MOSCOW TRIPS OF THE SECRETARY AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, SUGGESTS THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE DECIDED PRIOR TO THE VISITS TO ATTEMPT TO BRING PUBLIC PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE WESTERN ALLIES (PARTICULARLY THE GERMANS) IF THE SUMMIT TALKS FAILED TO MODIFY THE WESTERN POSITION.

STATUS OF LUNA-23: LUNA-23, WHICH ENTERED LUNAR ORBIT ON SATURDAY, IS EXPECTED TO OBTAIN A LUNAR SOIL SAMPLE AND RETURN TO EARTH. THE SPACECRAFT WILL PROBABLY LAND ON THE MOON'S SURFACE AND OBTAIN A LUNAR CORE SAMPLE EARLY TOMORROW. IN FOUR SIMILAR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN LUNAR SOIL SAMPLES, THE SOVIETS HAVE SUCCEEDED TWICE, WITH LUNA-16 IN 1970 AND LUNA-20 IN 1972.

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